Name of states	Subject
	• Conversion of Medium Term Fiscal loan taken during 2002-03 into grant
5. Mizoram	• Waiver of Ginger loan to farmers
6. Tripura	• One time debt relief to the State by writing off all outstanding Central government loans including interest thereon

Bamboo Plantation

†2581. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to boost inclination of farmers towards bamboo crops in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, sir. The Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing a Tenth Plan initiative, in the form of a Technology Mission, the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA), with an outlay of Rs. 100 crores. The Mission is focused on value added products and applications. The NMBA has also developed technologies and improved packages of practices for cultivation of bamboo, and for improved vegetative propagation practices. These technologies are being disseminated throughout the country to encourage intensively managed cultivation of bamboo by farmers.

Awareness on aspects of Earthquake

2582. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.